



Two new species of mole crickets (Orthoptera: Gryllotalpidae: Scapteriscinae) from the Colombian Amazon and Orinoquia rainforests

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Abstract

This paper describes and illustrates two new species of mole crickets of the genus *Scapteriscus* from the forest of the Colombian Amazon and Orinoquia regions, based on linear morphometry, level of coverage of tympanum, ocelli form, intraocellar distances, intraocular distances and interdactylar distances as proposed in Nickle in 2003. The interspecific relations of the new species are discussed.

Key words: *Scapteriscus*, linear morphometry, rainforest

Resumen

Se describen e ilustran dos nuevas especies de grillos topo pertenecientes al género *Scapteriscus* provenientes de las selvas de la Orinoquia y Amazonia colombiana, en base a la morfometría lineal, nivel de cobertura del tímpano, forma de ocelos y distancias intraocelar, intraocular e interdactilar tal como lo propuso Nickle en el 2003. Se discute las relaciones inter-específicas de las especies aquí descritas.

Palabras clave: *Scapteriscus*, morfometría lineal, selvas de la Orinoquia y Amazonia colombiana

Introduction

The family Gryllotalpidae or mole crickets is characterized by the first pair of tibia modified to dig (Leach 1815, Chopard 1949) and the males' calling songs which they produce with help of a den, that acts as a resonator (Bennet-Clark 1970, 1987, 1989, Forrest 1980, 1983 Walker, T.J. & Figg 1990, Montealegre-Z 2005). Although their singing remains in the human audio range, some species of mole crickets are sensitive to ultrasound (Mason et al. 1998, Montealegre-Z 2005). Mole crickets are spread over most of the globe, represented in six genera, of which four occur in the Neotropics: *Gryllotalpa* with distribution in the Old and New World, *Gryllotalpella* restricted to the Amazon, *Neocurtilla* and *Scapteriscus* reaching from North America to Argentina and Chile (Eades et al., Townsend 1983). The subfamily Scapteriscinae consists of the mole crickets with two dactyls in the front tibia. The genus *Scapteriscus* differs from *Indioscaptor* by its trochanter being armed with a blade on the ventral margin (Nickle 2003), and occurs with eight species in Colombia (*S. borellii*, *S. didactylus*, *S. ecuadorensis*, *S. mexicanus*, *S. oxydactylus*, *S. parvipennis*, *S. variegatus* and *S. vicinus*) of which three are considered agricultural pests (Nickle & Castner 1984, Canhedo-Lascombe & Corseuil 1996, Nickle 2003).

This paper describes two new species of *Scapteriscus* found in the forests of the Orinoquia and Colombian Amazon.